GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4998
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Growth Monitoring of Children under ICDS Scheme
Dubey Shri Satish Chandra

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for growth monitoring of children and nutrition surveillance and to make a growth chart of each child in Anganwadi Centres and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether all Anganwadi Centres are maintaining this chart and if so, the compliance status thereof;
(c) if not, the initiatives being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(d) the benefits accrued therefrom in assessing the growth and nutrition status of children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) Yes, Madam. Growth monitoring of children and nutrition surveillance are important activities of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme at grassroot level. Weight−for-age growth chart Standards have been prescribed at the Anganwadi Centre for all children below six years of age (as per WHO Child Growth Standards). Children under three years of age are to be weighed once a month and children 3-6 years of age weighed quarterly. For this purpose, there is a provision of two types of weighing scales- baby weighing Scale and Salter scale.

(b) to (d) As per the Scheme all the Anganwadi Centers are required to maintain the growth monitoring chart for assessing the nutrition status of children. These growth charts help identify children in various categories like normal Children, moderately underweight Children and severely underweight children. The tracking through these charts help detect growth faltering and facilitate prompt action and referral.
As per information available, there are 13.52 lakh operational Anganwadi Centre (AWCs) out of 14 lakh sanctioned AWCs in the country as on 31.12.2016. In these AWCs, 903.08 lakh children (0-5 years) were weighed out of which 672.66 lakhs children (74.48%) were normal, 201.20 lakh children (22.28%) were moderately underweight and remaining 29.22 lakh children (3.24%) were severely underweight as on 31.12.2016. The States/ UTs are advised in the Review Meetings from time to time to ensure regular growth monitoring of children.
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